

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

SIXTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215 extension 224

SWEDISH KING LENDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRIVATE CHINESE ART

FOR FIRST U.S. VIEW

Washington, D. C. September 1, 1966. This month (September 10) at the National Gallery of Art, America will have its first look at the celebrated -- but rarely seen -- Chinese collection of the King of Sweden.

150 objects from the palace of Gustaf VI Adolf will open the National Gallery's fall exhibition season and will remain in Washington through October 9. Later, they will travel to Minneapolis, New York, Cleveland, San Francisco and Kansas City, all under the auspices of Mrs. John A. Pope's International Exhibitions Foundation (itinerary attached).

Not even the Swedish people are familiar with the Chinese works of art which were personally selected by their King for this unprecedented trip to America. Following their return to



Sweden next year, they will be shown to the public in Stockholm for the first time.

The monarch's total collection of 2,400 objects is maintained in a wing of the Royal Palace in Stockholm where it is generally seen only by friends.

King Gustaf's acquisitions span four millenia, from the archaic Shang dynasty of the Bronze Age to the close of the 18th century. It includes bronzes, ceramics, jades, enamelware, lacquer, and ivory and rhinoceros horn carvings.

According to the Curator of the Royal Collection, Dr. Bo Gyllensvärd, who is accompanying the exhibition, the pieces coming to America were chosen by the King for both their aesthetic merit and historical interest. He states that a number of the rarest items should be familiar to connoisseurs through published photographs, such as a black Ting Yao bowl, a Chinese Imperial ware of the Sung dynasty. Ting Yao is normally white and there are less than half a dozen black specimens known. Another rare item is a small black teapot, known as "oil spot" Temmoku. Its surface is covered with a profusion of silvery spots caused by bubbles bursting during the firing process, a secret technique of Sung times of which there are scant examples today. A pottery piece whose charm and grace are certain to attract attention, Dr. Gyllensvärd says, is a first-century Tang figurine of a maidservant holding a wine pot. And notable among the lacquer wares is a large carved red box dating from the reign of the Emperor Yung-lo (1403-24) in the Ming dynasty, a present to the Swedish King from the famed British collector



of Oriental art, the late Sir Percival David.

King Gustaf's long interest in antiquities began at Upsala University where he studied archaeology. His countrymen believe that if he had not been destined to become King he would most certainly have been a professor of archaeology. During his long life the King has taken part in excavations in the Far East, Sweden, Italy and Greece. In recent years he has spent a month each fall accompanied by his young granddaughter Christina excavating Etruscan tombs near Rome.

Professor Gyllensvärd describes the 84 year-old King Gustaf as "not merely a collector, but a serious student and a true scholar with a remarkable knowledge of his own."

Chinese Art from the Collection of His Majesty Gustaf VI Adolf King of Sweden will be on view at the National Gallery of Art in rooms G-4 through G-7. A fully illustrated catalogue with essays by Professor Gyllensvärd and by Dr. John A. Pope, the Director of the Freer Gallery of Art in Washington, D. C., will be available (at \$3.50 per copy).

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Catalogues, black-and-white photographs and color transparencies on loan for purposes of publication are available from William W. Morrison, Assistant to the Director, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C., Area Code 202, 737-4215, ext. 225



"CHINESE ART"  
from the collection of  
H.M. the King of Sweden

ITINERARY

1966	September 10 - October 9	The National Gallery of Art 6th St. at Constitution Ave., N.W. Washington, D. C. 20565
	November 5 - December 11	The Minneapolis Institute of Arts 201 East 24th Street Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404
1967	January 5 - February 12	The Asia House Gallery 112 East 64th Street New York, N. Y. 10021
	March 1 - April 2	The Cleveland Museum of Art 11150 East Boulevard Cleveland, Ohio 44106
	May 1 - June 4	The M.H. de Young Memorial Museum Golden Gate Park San Francisco, California 94118
	June 23 - July 23	William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art 4525 Oak Street Kansas City, Missouri 64111





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WASHINGTON, D. C.

CHINESE ART from the Collection of  
H.M. King Gustaf VI Adolf of Sweden  
September 10 to October 9, 1966

Gilt bronze seated Bodhisattva.  
Sui dynasty, 589-618 B.C.

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